

REMARKS

The indication that claims 11 and 26 include patentable subject matter and that claims 3-6, 8, 12-15, 18-21, 23, and 27-30 are allowed is acknowledged with thanks.

Claims 9, 11, 20-21, 24, 26, and 28 were rejected under §112, second paragraph. Claims 20-21 have been canceled and claims 9, 11, 24, 26, and 28 have been amended as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 7, 9-10, 16-17, 22, and 24-25 were rejected as anticipated by OLARIG et al. 6,895,456. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

OLARIG et al. '456 was filed December 12, 2000. The priority Japanese application in the present application was filed on October 10, 2000. The claim to priority has been perfected by filing herewith a verified English translation of priority Japanese application 2000-309813. Accordingly, OLARIG et al. '456 is no longer available as a reference in the present application and thus the rejection based on this reference should be withdrawn.

It is noted that OLARIG et al. '456 is a continuation-in-part of OLARIG et al. 6,230,225 that was filed as application S.N. 09/203,083 (OLARIG et al. '456 incorrectly identifies the prior application as S.N. 09/203,093). The Official Action does not rely on OLARIG et al. '225 and, indeed, the sections of

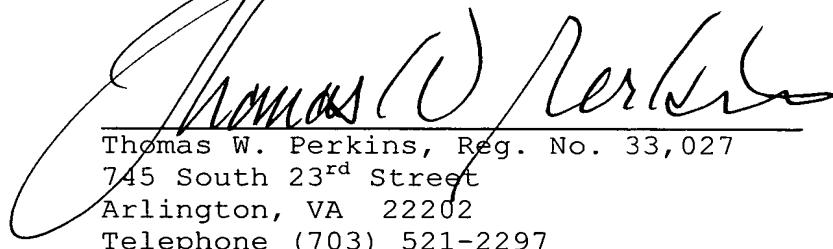
OLARIG et al. '456 relied upon in the Official Action (e.g., Figure 4 and column 7, lines 64-66) do not appear in OLARIG et al. '225. Accordingly, OLARIG et al. '225 does not afford OLARIG et al. '456 with an effective date earlier than the date of the priority application in the present application.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/lk

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- a verified English translation of priority Japanese application 2000-309813 filed October 10, 2000.
- Replacement Sheet for Figure 12

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 12 is amended to change "ISM" in element 808 to "IRM."